

2009 IN REVIEW

January . . .

On January 6 the Board of Supervisors unanimously appointed Fourth District Supervisor Gary Ovitt to serve as Chairman of the Board of Supervisors for the following two years, and appointed Fifth District Supervisor Josie Gonzales to serve as Vice Chair. Chairman Ovitt, who had served as vice chairman for the preceding two years, succeeded Second District Supervisor Paul Biane, who had led the Board of Supervisors since January 2007.



The county's Arrowhead Regional Medical Center was designated as a Baby-Friendly hospital, one of just 83 in the U.S. The women's health center at ARMC was awarded the distinction by Baby-Friendly USA for providing care emphasizing the benefits of breastfeeding and skin-to-skin contact for newborns, and for providing access to lactation consultants, social workers, educators, Lamaze instruction in English and Spanish, and prenatal breastfeeding classes. The women's health center also offers a Close to My Heart outpatient lactation clinic, where breastfeeding moms can receive advice.



The county Probation Department opened the Montclair Day Reporting Center, situated at Chaffey West Community Day School, and officially started offering no-cost enrichment programs to its surrounding low-income community and providing daily counseling and guidance to students.

On January 6 the Board of Supervisors awarded contracts to begin the renovation of the overcrowded and outdated Barstow Sheriff's Station. The expansion added 40 parking spaces and new security gates. In addition, Stiern Park was renovated with plants and ground cover that require less water. The contracts also called a 4,000-square-foot expansion and for the renovation of the lobby and restrooms to bring them into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

On January 13 the Board of Supervisors approved plans to expand Fire Station 111 in Lucerne Valley by adding nearly 1,500 square feet of space to store a new brush patrol truck and two other emergency vehicles. The county had recently acquired a new brush patrol fire truck for the Lucerne Valley area, but there was insufficient space for the vehicle to fit into the existing apparatus bays at the station. "Ensuring that we have adequate infrastructure to support our County Fire Department is critical to the safety of our public," said Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt, who represents the area. "This expansion to the fire station will ensure that we're able to take good care of our equipment so that the equipment is in good condition when we need it."

On January 27 the Board of Supervisors approved an \$8 million plan to replace aging dispatch consoles with more modern equipment that will improve communication between San Bernardino County emergency responders and agencies outside the County. The county's Information Services Department, which operates and maintains the county's 800 MHz radio communication system, secured \$5.1 million from the Department of Homeland Security to help purchase the consoles.

San Bernardino County Sheriff Gary S. Penrod retired on January 31. Penrod told the Board of Supervisors that he had accomplished all he had set out to do during his 37-year career and it was time for someone else to take



over the reins of the 3,400-member department. Penrod was elected to his first term as Sheriff in 1994, and re-elected in 1998 and 2002. Penrod had recently served as president of the California State Sheriff's Association. The Board of Supervisors unanimously selected Assistant Sheriff Rod Hoops to complete the remainder of Penrod's term.

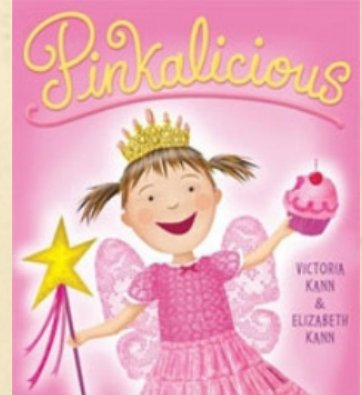
February . . .

Supervisors Paul Biane and Brad Mitzelfelt visited each member of the Inland Empire's Congressional delegation in Washington, D.C. to educate them about the county's efforts to tackle the Inland Empire's foreclosure and economic woes. "The timing of us being here is incredibly important," said Biane, who proposed the creation of the Inland Empire Economic Recovery Corporation and serves as chairman of the agency's board of directors. "Things are changing by the minute, by the hour, by the day as to what the stimulus package is going to look like." The IEERC is purchasing foreclosure properties in the Inland Empire using a mix of public and private dollars, and contracting with local businesses such as painters, plumbers, real estate agents, mortgage brokers, property managers, etc. to rehabilitate and sell foreclosure properties. Profits generated through the sales of homes will be recycled into the corporation to purchase and rehabilitate additional foreclosure properties. The corporation will ensure foreclosure properties are purchased for primary residences, and it will also help prevent speculative buying by out-of-town investors, who would likely turn homes into rentals or, worse, board them up until the housing market returns.

Four new trailers loaded with medical and disaster supplies, as well as equipment and supplies for training volunteers, were rolled out on February 6 by Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt and county emergency officials. The trailers will be located in Oak Hills,

Lucerne Valley, Harvard (east of Barstow) and Needles. They will be available for training and disaster support in surrounding communities as well. Previously, there was only one trailer in the High Desert, located in Apple Valley.

On February 25, Waterman Gardens Head Start held a Fatherhood Literacy event called "Pinkalicious", named for a children's book about a little girl who eats too many pink cupcakes. The event included a father/daughter reading and story time and craft tables where fathers and daughters made pink Play-Doh and princess crowns. The fathers and daughters also made pink refreshments of pink yogurt and granola with cherries on top. The event wrap-up included father/daughter pictures and a grab bag being given to each girl with her very own copy of the book "Pinkalicious". The books were donated by Head Start main office staff.



On February 28, the Chino Hills branch library moved from an 8,600-square-foot set of temporary buildings to a brand new, 27,975-square-foot facility in the new City of Chino Hills Government Center. The new library has more than 70 public-access computers, a dedicated computer lab, three high-tech self-checkout stations, six Early Learning computer stations with educational software for preschool children, four dedicated study rooms, a conference room, a community multipurpose room, and a self-serve café with snack and soft drink vending machines. There are two rooms for young adults, one a quiet reading room and the other an open activity space. There's a comfortably appointed periodical reading room in the adult library area and the large, airy children's area has a large space for story time and is furnished with child-size tables and chairs. There is free Wi-Fi service for those who bring their own computers.



March . . .

On March 21 the San Bernardino County Museum opened a seven-month exhibit displaying “The Art of Ramón Contreras and the Mexican Muralists Movement,” featuring works by the late San Bernardino artist.



On March 26, the county’s Arrowhead Regional Medical Center, a state-of-the-art, publicly-owned hospital in Colton, held its 10th Anniversary Celebration and Open House. Now one of the area’s busiest medical centers, ARMC was once criticized as being too big, too expensive and possibly unnecessary. After the Medical Center opened, however, it was operating at near capacity on most days.

On March 3, the Board of Supervisors approved the purchase of four natural gas-powered dump trucks to replace aging and polluting diesel-powered units. The four dump trucks brought the total number of natural gas-powered trucks in the Department of Public Works fleet to 18. Diesel exhaust is a recognized cancer-causing agent, and its fine particulates also exacerbate health conditions such as asthma and heart disease. Natural gas-powered trucks produce about 90 percent less particulate matter than diesel engines. Natural gas vehicles also produce less carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxide than diesel vehicles. Nitrogen oxide is a main component of smog. The county received \$125,000 from air quality management district grants to offset the cost of purchasing the new dump trucks.

The county broke ground on a new, larger, and environmentally friendly library in Crestline. The 7,641 square foot library on 3.1 acres of county-owned land across from Lake Gregory will

be adjacent to the Crestline Village Park and Skatepark and will be built to the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) silver standard. LEED buildings utilize less energy and water than traditional buildings. This will reduce utility costs for the facility while also conserving resources. “The groundbreaking is a great opportunity for Crestline residents to come out and show support for their new library,” Biane said. “I look forward to putting shovels in the dirt and getting this long overdue library project moving.” The new library will include a multipurpose room, children’s reading area, computer lab, and study areas. The existing Crestline Library is located in a leased 3,169 square-foot former post office.



The water-wise garden project started the Facilities Management Department in July 2008 surpassed its 12-month goal of 1 million gallons saved. In just under six months, the project has already realized more than 1 million gallons saved; the equivalent of almost two Olympic swimming pools. The project saves water by replacing over-thirsty turf with drought-tolerant landscaping. “I am so very proud of our county’s proactive approach to addressing the mandates of AB 1881,” said Board of Supervisors Vice Chair Josie Gonzales. AB 1881 is state legislation requiring local agencies to adopt efficient landscape practices by January 2010. A demonstration garden, located at the Facilities Management Headquarters in San Bernardino, showcases the beauty and



diversity of several drought-tolerant California Friendly and California Native plants. The garden provides living examples of options for homeowners to use in their own yards, as well as examples of drought-tolerant landscaping for businesses and other agencies.

Community blight and unsightly mounds of illegally dumped materials became less of a problem in San Bernardino County in 2009 thanks to cameras installed and operated by the Code Enforcement Division of the County's Land Use Services Department. One-hundred percent of illegal dumpers caught and cited have returned to the scene to clean up their debris, representing a huge success for the program. In March it was announced that the program had been in operation for 18 months and that cameras placed in popular illegal dump sites had been able to identify and cite approximately one-third of the vehicles caught on camera illegally dumping trash, junk and other materials. The program uses one officer to review footage and investigate dumping tips, and maintains a roving crew of field assistants that regularly retrieve illegally dumped materials as well. "Approximately 56 tons of debris has been removed from illegal dump sites and taken to landfills since the program began," said Code Enforcement Division Chief Randy Rogers.

The Board of Supervisors approved a plan to use nearly \$23 million in Neighborhood Stabilization Program funds to address the county's high number of vacant and abandoned properties resulting from the foreclosure crisis. A primary objective of the program is to provide financial assistance to qualified families to encourage them to purchase vacant or foreclosed homes. "The foreclosure crisis has disrupted many lives and neighborhoods and the vacant homes left in the aftermath must be occupied in order to prevent further damage to neighborhoods," said Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt, who represents the High Desert, an

area hit especially hard by the foreclosure crisis. "This program will help qualified families purchase and rehabilitate vacant and foreclosed homes, helping to spur additional home purchases and keep neighborhoods attractive. Abandoned and neglected homes create blight in our neighborhoods and lead to crime and lower property values." The County's program includes six programs: \$2,500,000 for Down Payment Assistance, \$1,340,000 for Rehabilitation Loan Assistance, \$10,453,000 for Affordability Assistance, \$2 million for Partnering with For-Profit/Non-Profit for Acquisition and Rehabilitation of Single Family Homes, \$3,940,000 for Rental Property Acquisition and Rehabilitation, and \$250,000 to assist the Department of Behavioral Health to house qualifying clients.

The Board of Supervisors voted to apply for a \$9 million grant from the federal government to foster safe, healthy, and drug-free schools in San Bernardino County. The grant funds from the U.S. departments of Education, Health and Human Services, and Justice for the Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative would be spread over four years, from October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2013. "Taking advantage of these funding opportunities allows the county to provide services that might otherwise be unavailable during these difficult economic times," said Supervisor Gary Ovitt. The Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative would provide funding to implement a comprehensive community-wide plan designed to create safe, respectful, and drug-free school environments, promote social skills and healthy childhood development, and prevent youth violence and the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. It would also provide early childhood social and emotional learning programs.

April . . .

More than 50 years in the making, the \$150-million Etiwanda/San Sevaine Flood Control Project was formally dedicated on April 9 during a ceremony in Rancho Cucamonga. The project, construction on which began in 1996, protects more than 100,000 property owners in western San Bernardino County from floods the type of which occur on average once every 100 years. The channel starts in the foothills north of Rancho Cucamonga and run through Fontana and unincorporated areas of the county before reaching the Riverside County line. "The geography of our county presents us with many challenges as we work to make it a safe and comfortable place for people to call home," Supervisor Biane said. "The Etiwanda/San Sevaine Flood Control Project is a key achievement toward that goal, and the credit goes to countless dedicated people at all levels of



government.” Prior to this project the unimproved sections of the channel have led to flooding that in turn caused damage to public roads and private property. With the project improvements having been completed, the storm flows will be contained to help prevent property damage and improve public safety on the roadways.



With the goal of placing more than 1,500 young people in San Bernardino County in jobs and giving them the opportunity for on-the-job training, the Board of Supervisors accepted \$15.8 million in federal stimulus money designated for workforce training. The board approved \$5,797,251 in contracts to provide a Summer Youth Employment Program administered by the county’s Workforce Investment Board. The program paid the salaries of eligible youths, ages 14-24, during the summer. The remainder of the \$15.8 million provides services and training to adults and laid-off workers. Trainees will receive instruction in industries that have a demand for skilled workers, including health care, aviation, transportation and logistics, manufacturing and green industries. Workers also will receive training in general skills that are required for a wide variety of jobs.

May . . .

Pirate Cove Resort unveiled new additions at the county’s Moabi Regional Park on the banks of the Colorado River. Using a Caribbean theme, the full-service restaurant, Pirate Cove Grille and Naked Pirate Beach Bar face the river, providing perfect views for a relaxing, waterfront dining experience. Exquisitely furnished two-bedroom, two-bath waterfront cabins are available for rental for those who do not camp but want a tranquil vacation on the water. The cabins come equipped with full kitchens for

extended stays. Camping enthusiasts who either do not have or do not wish to drive a trailer or RV long distances will be able to rent one through Pirate Cove Resorts to be placed on a site of choice at Moabi Regional Park. “The new Pirate Cove Resort additions will not only add over 70 full time jobs to the area, but also bring a much deserved beachside destination to one of the most beautiful areas of the Colorado River. It will be truly spectacular,” said Rob Smith, Director of Sales and Marketing, Pirate Cove Resort.



On May 16, a 3-year-old San Bernardino boy who had been kidnapped two weeks earlier during a home invasion was reunited with his mother following an international investigation conducted by the Sheriff’s Department. Briant Rodriguez, taken by gunmen from his San Bernardino home, turned up in Mexico and was returned home with his mother on a sheriff’s airplane. Sheriff Rod Hoops said during a press conference that Briant seemed to be in good health and did not appear to have any injuries. “We knew there was a possibility he might be in Mexico, but we were searching all over California and the country,” Hoops said. He said the 80 investigators working the case had received more than 400 tips in the two weeks following the boy’s disappearance.

On May 23, San Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt May 23 joined with military veterans and state and federal leaders to dedicate the new Wrightwood Veterans Memorial Park and Memorial. For years, a group of veterans discussed the possibility of Wrightwood having its own tribute to American veterans. They turned to Mitzelfelt, a Marine Corps veteran, who arranged to have the county purchase two vacant parcels in the Wrightwood village that would expand Wrightwood's park space and also provide the veterans with a location to display the monument. The group quickly raised the money needed for the monument, which stands six feet tall, three feet wide, and eight inches thick, is made of a solid granite slab and is designed to be dedicated to all past, present and future serviceman and women of all branches of the military. The county Department of Public Works designed and constructed the parking lot and the county Special Districts Department landscaped the park, in addition to providing picnic tables and a walkway that connects to Vivian Null Park.



June . . .

In June, the Probation Department's High Desert Juvenile Detention and Assessment Center launched its Animal Therapy Program, B.A.R.K. (Building Attachments Rehabilitating Kids). The program is collaboration between the San Bernardino County Probation Department and the PAL Humane Society. Juveniles in the dog training program learn to train basic obedience behaviors. The education portion consists of four one hour classes on Responsible Pet Owner, Bite Prevention, Careers, and Animal Cruelty. They learn real-life skills like patience, problem-solving, understanding and love as well as humane treatment of animals. These programs assist in the rehabilitation process of the juveniles through character-building activities, learning to

care for others, learning to be responsible, positive adult role modeling with bonding time, building self-esteem, and educates participants in the importance of responsible pet ownership and instilling respect for and appreciation of all living things.



On June 10, the County of San Bernardino was named the most supportive county in California to the state's military members and their families by the Yellow Ribbon America Campaign and the California State Legislature. The county operates numerous programs to support members of the military and their families, including providing full pay and benefits to county employees who also serve as active-duty members of the military while they are away from work serving in the military. The county also provides special health care services to active-duty military personnel and veterans, and has operated food and supply drives for troops stationed overseas. On June 5, the county hosted a ceremony for men and women whose high school education was interrupted due to their military service in World War II, the Korean War, or the Vietnam War, or by their internment in a Japanese-American relocation camp during World War II. The participants will receive their long-awaited high school diplomas.

On June 2 the Board of Supervisors purchased emergency supplies and equipment for the San Antonio Heights Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) so that volunteers trained in disaster response will receive the tools and equipment they will need to react quickly during a major emergency. The team consists of 40 residents who have received emergency response training through the San Bernardino County Fire Department and Office of Emergency Services. At Supervisor Biane's request, team members developed a list of equipment they need to fulfill their role during a disaster. The list included two-way radios, cots, a generator, pry bars, lights, tables and other supplies.

“These residents made a huge commitment when they joined the CERT, and I want to support their efforts by providing them with the tools and equipment they will use to assist their neighbors during a major emergency in the community,” Biane said. San Bernardino County and local agencies have established 23 CERTs across the county to provide basic emergency response and care following a major disaster, which could overwhelm traditional emergency responders. More than 6,000 residents in the county have received CERT training.



The Board of Supervisors on June 9 approved a plan to create a more coordinated, effective and cost-efficient healthcare system for residents of San Bernardino County. Known as the Integrated Healthcare Project, the plan calls for the integration of services currently provided by the county’s Arrowhead Regional Medical Center, Department of Behavioral Health, and Department of Public Health. These integrated services will be delivered through a network of healthcare centers that will be strategically located throughout the county. The first integrated healthcare center is expected to be opened within two years in San Bernardino. ARMC will provide primary care services for all ages, Behavioral Health will provide assistance with short-term mental health issues, and Public Health services will include reproductive and maternal health, immunizations, HIV and STD services and the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program. Additional services may be added based on need. In addition, the County’s Human Services Department will have representatives at the clinic to screen and enroll eligible patients into the Medi-Cal health care coverage plan.

On June 16, the Board of Supervisors approved a revised policy that aims to expand a San Bernardino County program that promotes “green” residential home construction in unincorporated areas. The revised policy expands the program to include commercial construction and provides more options for builders to qualify for the program’s benefits. The county

launched its Green Builder Program and other initiatives aimed at reducing negative impacts on the environment in August 2007. The Green Builder Program offered residential home builders priority in the County’s plan review and building permit inspection process if they met the standards of the California Green Builder program (CGB), which was created by the California Building Industry Association. So far, no builders have taken advantage of the county’s Green Builder Program, which was implemented as the area’s booming housing market began to fizzle. The revised policy includes commercial construction and provides developers four options to qualify as a “green” builder so they can benefit from expedited plan checks and building inspections. In addition to the California Green Builder Standards, home builders also can elect to build to Leadership in Energy Efficient Design (LEED) standards or they can select another third-party “green” building rating program approved by the county. Builders can also elect to use the county’s “green” building checklist, which gives points for incorporating features such as solar powered outdoor lighting, energy-efficient appliances, and the use of recycled construction materials.



On June 23, the Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted a balanced and on-time budget for the 2009-2010 fiscal year, remaining aware that the state’s fiscal crisis could severely damage this successful effort to maintain vital services for San Bernardino County residents. The vast majority of county departments were forced to cut 8 percent from their budgets for the coming fiscal year in addition to 8 percent that was cut for the current year. The budget also reflected a voluntary decision by the unions that represent most county employees, including Sheriff’s deputies and other sworn public safety officers, to forgo a previously agreed-upon pay increase. “Thanks to the

foresight of our fiscal team, and the sacrifices of staff, the county has been able to continue providing services now when they are needed the most," said Board of Supervisors Chairman Gary Ovitt. "The county hopes the state likewise chooses fiscal responsibility over short-sighted schemes that will just make our problems worse." The budget calls for total spending of \$3.8 billion, which represents a reduction of more than \$60 million from the 2008-2009 year budget.

On June 23, the Board of Supervisors approved contracts with eight vocational training schools, colleges, and other agencies that will provide education and training to CalWORKs clients in order to help them secure gainful employment. The county Transitional Assistance Department (TAD) is required by the state to provide clients with training and educational services to help them transition from welfare to self-sufficiency. More than 500 CalWORKs clients participate in the training annually. The providers include Chaffey College in Rancho Cucamonga, the American Red Cross – Inland Empire Chapter, and San Bernardino Valley College.

The Board of Supervisors on June 23 restored \$65,000 for the 4-H program, a decades-old project that has long provided American youth with diverse educational opportunities about the farming and ranching industries and often served as a gateway into veterinarian sciences. Administered by the Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service through the U.S. Department of Agriculture, 4-H focuses on experiential learning programs designed to facilitate the personal development of our youth (head, heart, hands and health). It also instructs students on good citizenship, healthy living and application of science and technology and its application to this field of study. The county receives \$8 from outside sources for every \$1 it puts into the program. "It is especially critical that during these very difficult times that our county leverages our assets so that we can soften the blow of our budget cuts," Supervisor Neil Derry said. "This is a phenomenal program for our young people and worthy of preserving on its merits alone."

On June 30, San Bernardino County firefighters serving the communities of Phelan, Pinon Hills, Wrightwood and El Mirage celebrated the grand opening of Fire Station 10. The modern, state-of-the-art fire station replaced two aging mobile homes and a metal shed. The previous facilities were meant to be temporary, but remained in place for 20 years. The 6,997-square-foot station houses the fire engine, ambulance and up to seven personnel. New driveways and parking areas were also constructed along with a separate 1,800-square-foot storage building.

July . . .

On July 2, District Attorney Mike Ramos announced the filing of a gang injunction in the City of Rialto. This was the first gang injunction filed by the San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office. The gang targeted by the injunction is South Side Rialto, and the purpose of the injunction is to disrupt the gang's activities and make it harder for them to intimidate residents by prohibiting gang members from associating. They are also prohibited from wearing gang clothing and displaying gang tattoos.



County residents now have several new tools at their disposal when filing appeals of property tax assessments. On July 14, Clerk of the Board Dena Smith outlined improvements designed to ease the process for property owners including a revamped assessment appeals website (www.sbcounty.gov/assessmentappeals), a dedicated Assessment Appeals Hot Line phone number (909-387-4413), an appeal application form that can be completed and submitted via the internet and the "Your Assessment Appeals" video. "Given the decline in property values and the resultant increase in appeal filings, it is more important than ever that we help taxpayers understand their rights and options as they relate to the assessment and valuation of their property," said Smith, whose office experienced a 10 fold increase in appeals filed in 2008.

On July 21, the National Weather Service recognized San Bernardino County for earning its StormReady distinction. To earn the StormReady designation, county officials completed several steps to better prepare their residents for severe weather. StormReady requires implementation of a rigorous set of severe weather warning criteria and action plans to ensure public safety. "StormReady encourages communities to take a proactive approach to improving local hazardous weather operations and

public awareness,” said Jim Purpura, meteorologist-in-charge of the National Weather Service forecast office in San Diego. “The StormReady program has armed the county with improved communication and safety skills needed to save lives and property before and during a hazardous weather event.”



Southern California Edison will permanently house its fleet of six maintenance helicopters at the county’s Chino Airport under an agreement unanimously endorsed July 21 by the Board of Supervisors. SCE is relocating its fleet of aviation workhorses from LA/Ontario International Airport to the less-congested Chino Airport, which features a unique location, access to Southern California’s skies, and a convenient location within a 10-minute drive of four other Southern California counties. “This move to Chino Airport will provide improved logistical support for our operations. It will enable our work crews to have better access to remote locations, improving reliability and service to our customers,” said Cecil House, senior vice president, Safety,



Operations Support and Chief Procurement Office for SCE. The 20-year lease with SCE is expected to generate approximately \$11,000 per month in revenue to the county Department of Airports and add approximately 20 full-time jobs to the airport. The lease will bring even more indirect economic benefits to the County and the communities surrounding the airport.

August . . .

On August 20 the county broke ground for a new 68,000-square-foot medical office building. The structure will include clinics, offices, conference rooms, and space for future expansion. Completion is scheduled for Fall 2010.



The county announced that 98 percent of its vehicle fleet had been “re-branded” with new color seals, bold stripes, and large wording to make the vehicles more identifiable to the public. The new design, which was approved by the Board of Supervisors, makes county vehicles more recognizable, reminding the public that the county is on the job, and reminding county employees that they are in a county vehicle.



On August 4 the Board of Supervisors funded a partnership between the county Economic Development Agency and the Big Bear Chamber of Commerce to help promote the area’s tourism and recreational opportunities. One of the major issues facing the area is the significant difference in business and economic activity between ski season and the rest of the year. The Big Bear

Valley offers ample opportunities and attractions throughout the year. “We hope to increase the economic health and vitality of the area by developing strategies that will promote the area as a year round tourist destination,” said Supervisor Neil Derry, whose office provided the \$20,000 in funding for the effort.

On August 17, the county broke ground on the new High Desert Government Center and Hesperia Police Station. The 67,000-square-foot building is being constructed on 4.42 acres of land donated by the City of Hesperia adjacent to its new City Hall and library. The new government center will house several County departments, including: Agriculture/Weights and Measures, the Board of Supervisors, the Recorder, Fire Marshal, Human Resources, Land Use Services, Public Health (Environmental Health Services), the Assessor, Public Works, Registrar of Voters, the Treasurer/Tax Collector, and Veterans Affairs “We will have a one-stop shop for High Desert residents who won’t have to search for the appropriate county office and will not have to drive to San Bernardino,” said Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt.

On August 22 the new Phelan Memorial Library was dedicated and opened to the public. The 8,400 square-foot County branch library is the first stand-alone public library in the area. Previously, San Bernardino County provided library services at a 5,000 square-foot shared facility located at Serrano High School. Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt dedicated the new facility to America’s veterans. The new library offers a larger collection of materials and many more computers, as well as a 750 square-foot meeting room, which is available for community use, a 600 square-foot computer training lab, a 600 square-foot children’s area, and a 450 square-foot young adult area.



On August 25 the Board of Supervisors entered into agreements with 10 cities to have the county implement the Senior Home Repair Program, which provides repair services for low and moderate income seniors. The total funding for the program this fiscal year is \$888,140. The county and cities agreed to fund the program at that level for the next three years. The agreements call for the county to operate the program in Barstow, Needles, Twentynine Palms, Yucca Valley, Big Bear Lake, Colton, Grand Terrace, Highland, Loma Linda and Yucaipa. Not all of the County’s cities elected to participate in the program. The program will employ private contractors to make the repairs, providing private sector jobs during a time of high unemployment. Previously, county employees had done the repair work.

In August, Supervisor Neil Derry introduced a proposal to help the county foster ethics and openness by laying out the framework for an ethics commission and a sunshine ordinance modeled after those in several other cities and counties in California.

September . . .

More than a dozen teenagers helped kick off a brand new program called “Camp Good Grief Teen Retreat” in the San Bernardino Mountains. Camp Good Grief — Special Victims Program is a program that was designed to help children cope with the loss of a family member due to an act of violence. The children are given the opportunity to attend a three-day camp where they are able to share their emotions with other kids who have experienced the same trauma.



October . . .

On October 14, the county's Arrowhead Regional Medical Center in Colton opened its new sixth floor 83-bed inpatient unit, helping the county keep pace with the needs of its growing population. Since its opening in 1999, ARMC has been at or near capacity almost every day with an average occupancy rate of 97 percent, and the need for additional beds has reached a crucial point. The conversion of the sixth floor from offices to patient rooms increased the hospital's bed capacity from 373 to 456.



On October 3, several thousand residents attended the dedication ceremony for the North Etiwanda Preserve in northern Rancho Cucamonga. The event marked the completion of nearly 10 years of planning, coordination, and work to protect the preserve's sensitive habitat and wildlife while continuing to allow residents to enjoy this fascinating wilderness.

Investigators from the Sheriff's Narcotics Division and the Specialized Enforcement Detail concluded an 18-month investigation into the Mexican Drug Cartel, La Familia. Investigators



from the Sheriff's Inland Regional Narcotics Enforcement Task Force had learned La Familia was smuggling large quantities of narcotics into the United States from Mexico and using the Inland Empire as a staging area prior to moving the drugs throughout the United States. This information led to a nationwide investigation that culminated in a series of raids around the United States. In San Bernardino County alone there were 25 arrests and the recovery of 156 pounds of methamphetamine, 22 weapons and \$111,000 in cash.)

Hundreds of county staff and visitors to the San Bernardino County Government Center joined more than six million Californians on October 14 as they practiced responding to a catastrophic earthquake with a drop, cover and hold drill followed by a full building evacuation on October 15 as part of the Great California ShakeOut. Many other County departments and buildings in the immediate area of the Government Center also conducted full drills and evacuations. "By accepting the statewide challenge to make ShakeOut earthquake drills an annual event we hope to continue to raise staff awareness about the seriousness of protecting the public and themselves during an earthquake," said Board of Supervisors Chairman Gary Ovitt.

Businesses and public agencies in San Bernardino County that want to expand or renovate their facilities could save thousands of dollars in interest costs by accessing more than \$115 million in low-interest bonds that will be available through a program approved on October 27 by the Board of Supervisors. The board created a countywide Recovery Zone to allow for the issuance of more than \$46 million in economic development bonds and more than \$69 million in private facility bonds. The program is designed to spur economic development and job creation by offering attractive financing options to interested parties.

The Board of Supervisors on October 27 adopted a new policy to encourage county departments to consider energy and water efficiency and other environmental factors when purchasing products and services. The Environmentally Preferable Purchasing policy aims to reduce waste and to prompt County vendors and service providers to be more environmentally friendly. "The County of San Bernardino spends about \$350 million annually on products and services, and that means county departments can make a huge difference by simply taking environmental considerations into account when they are making purchasing decisions," said Second District Supervisor Paul Biane, who requested the policy. Under the new policy, county departments will have the ability to procure products and services that are environmentally friendly even if the products and services cost more than the lowest bid.

The Department of Child Support Services was honored with the Outstanding Program Award at the 2009 Child Support Training Conference and Expo in October. The department was recognized jointly by the California Department of Child Support Services and the California Child Support Directors Association. The award recognizes a local child support agency that has consistently exemplified providing quality child support services to its constituency and its community.



November . . .

More than 100 people joined officials from the City of Hesperia and County of San Bernardino on November 30 for a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the grand opening of the new Fire Station 305 in Hesperia. The \$6.7 million station was funded through the cooperative effort of the City of Hesperia, San Bernardino County Fire Department and the County of San Bernardino. The cost was \$4.5 million below original estimates. At 18,000 square feet, Station 305 is now the largest fire station in the county. The facility will serve as the future headquarters for the Fire Department's North Desert Division.

December . . .

Arrowhead Regional Medical Center and the Asthma & Allergy Foundation of America marked the addition of a second Breathmobile to the Medical Center on December 16, which enables medical staff to continue and expand a successful school-based asthma treatment program for children. Since its inception in 2006, the program has conducted 2,663 visits and has provided asthma treatments to 1,064 students. With the second Breathmobile, ARMC's medical staff can travel to even more school districts to provide asthma treatments to students who are referred by parents or school nurses.



The Board of Supervisors on December 15 approved the creation of a Storm Water Retention Task Force to examine and assess the feasibility of increasing storm water capture to recharge groundwater basins. Traditional flood control focused on a single purpose – routing storm water away from populated areas and direct the flow to the Santa Ana River and ultimately the Pacific Ocean. "In 2006 more than 600,000 acre feet of water flowed from the County of San Bernardino to the Pacific. This was water that could have supplied the needs of 1.5 million San Bernardino households," said Board of Supervisors Chairman Gary Ovitt.